



Photo Provided

Col. Michael Rossi presents a replica of the district's plaque that hangs in the Engineers Museum Regimental Auditorium at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., to Sen. Pat Roberts, Kan., for his support to the US Army, the Soldier and their dependents as well as the upgrade of military facilities. The Kansas City District is the first district with a plaque that was approved and dedicated to the museum.

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IN MEMORIAM

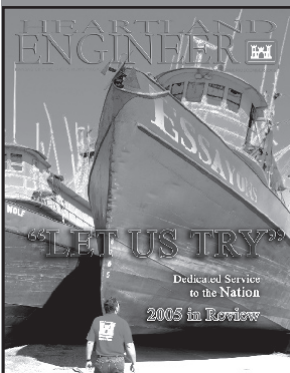


Dedicated to
Ronald C. Cummins and
Patricia A. van Bleisem in
memory of their valuable
contribution to the Kansas
City District



CORRECTIONS

All photos appearing on pages
10-11 of the October issue
were taken by Allison Choike
of Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.



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ON THE COVER:

Gary Householder, Pittsburgh District, examines two large fishing vessels the storm surge from Hurricane Katrina deposited on Louisiana State Highway 23 in Plaquemines Parish, south of New Orleans, La.
(Photo illustration by Rusty Thomas based on a photograph by Alfred Dulaney)



COL Michael A. Rossi



While most of my columns speak to where we're going as a district and as a Corps, it's encouraging to take a moment, every so often, to see and recognize where we've been and what we've done. This issue of the "Heartland Engineer" is our own Year in Review. We've got a lot to be proud of as a team--I'm certainly proud of your effort and the results. I've particularly enjoyed our quarterly awards ceremony when I get to personally and publicly recognize your great work--both for individual excellence and teamwork.

I've just returned from USACE's annual Small Business Conference. It's a gathering of all the District and Division Commanders, USACE Senior Leaders, and Leaders from small and large business. It would be impossible for me to document all the positive feedback that my peers, leaders, and business partners gave me regarding YOU. Each went out of their way to find me and give me specific examples--names, projects, and problems solved. You have earned an unmatched reputation for the Kansas City District.

What a year it's been. There's not enough room in this short column to recognize and thank every individual

deserving of credit for the year behind us. In broad brushes, the Kansas City District executed 50 percent greater workload than previous years with no growth in our workforce--we are truly "lean and mean."

We've improved dramatically in project execution--getting the job done on-time and to standard. I expect great things from our next round of customer surveys.

We've had our best year in numerous safety categories.

Lastly, you exhibited tremendous caring and generosity through the Combined Federal Campaign, and we've set a new record of selflessness and giving for the District.

You have earned a breather for your hard work and superb accomplishments. Enjoy the Holidays. Respite will be short however, for we've got a big year ahead. I'm reminded of a not-so-old saying which is always appropriate, "Remember, you're only as good as your NEXT time at bat."

Be safe always, but particularly in this Holiday Season. We'll need every one of you in the coming year.

Sincerely,

RELEVANT, READY, RESPONSIVE, RELIABLE

Whether it was aiding in the reconstruction of two budding democracies abroad, responding to our fellow citizen's needs after the largest natural disaster in our nation's history at home, or simply executing a half billion dollar program in military construction, civil works and environmental remediation, the members of the Kansas City District were once again a part of the events that change our world.

Despite deploying more than 10 percent of its workforce to support the global war on terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as recovery from Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma, the district was once again able to meet, or surpass its execution goals and achieve a record of \$611 million in obligations in 2005.

Effective teamwork, streamlined and improved business processes,

efficient use of information technology and strong sense of duty as civil servants were once again the cornerstones of a successful year.

The military construction program grew 25 percent from FY2004 levels and execution of the civil works and environmental programs met or exceeded goals across the board.

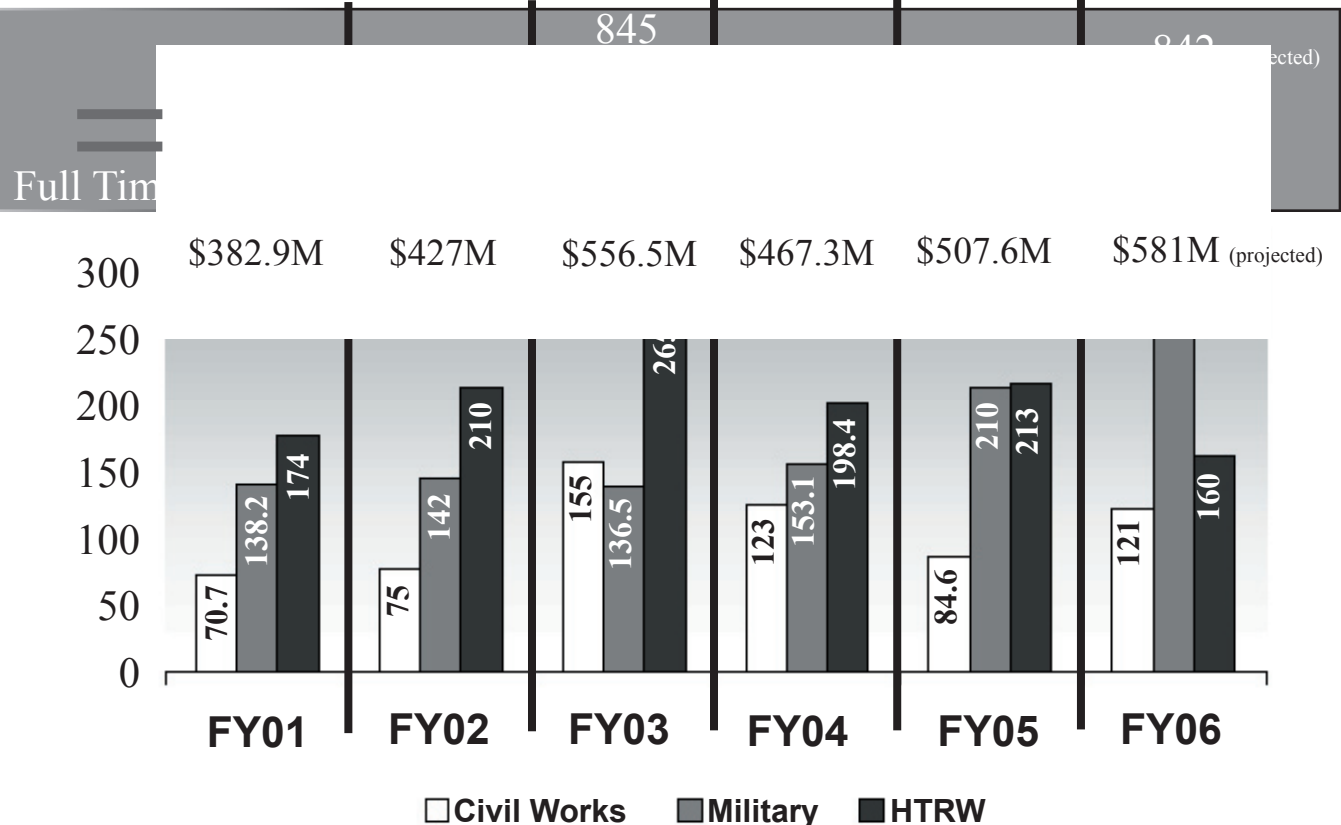
Nearly two dozen project managers received Project Management Professionals certification from the Project Management Institute, illustrating a district focus on integrated and effective teams and professional project delivery.

In addition to serving our customers at home and our allies abroad, Kansas City District employees were also good community partners as the district supported local charity events throughout the year and raised the highest record to date

during the annual Combined Federal Campaign.

Despite the challenges of being in a country at war, and the uncertainty of potential changes in federal personnel systems and unknown outcomes in outsourcing studies, the members of the Kansas City District have maintained a level of excellence and dedication which have formed the core of its reputation for 98 years.

While additional program growth and challenges lie ahead, the team of professionals in the Kansas City District stand ready to answer the call and continue to serve the armed forces and this nation, whatever the mission may be.



MILITARY Construction



Photo provided

A product of the face-lift Fort Leavenworth experienced in 2005, this duplex is one of 42 units built. The installation also received a jogging trail and new roads and utilities.

The Military Construction branch saw a busy year in FY05 throughout the Kansas City District while working on and completing several initiatives, and adding new ones.

Overall, Military Construction completed eight projects throughout the district at locations such as Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. and Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. and Fort Leavenworth and Fort Riley, both in Kansas. The district awarded 10 new projects this fiscal year for an even busier schedule and a budget increase of more than \$300 million for 2006, which can be credited to the Army's initiatives of modularity, Global Repositioning and the Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

Whiteman Air Force Base saw improvements to 144 of its existing quarters, expending \$18.2 million in the process.

Fort Riley saw a lot of action this year, with the completion of a child development center for \$6.9 million. The center can accommodate up to 225 children. Also completed was the 1st Brigade Whole Barracks Renewal complex, consisting of barracks, a Soldier community building, company operations facility and battalion headquarters. Construction costs for this complex total \$39 million.

Awarded for construction this year was the Unaccompanied Personnel Housing Renewal project. This project includes the construction of two barracks, four company operations facilities and a dining facility. Also beginning construction this year at Fort Riley was the Unit of Action Brigade Facility, consisting of 127 relocatable buildings, and the Barracks Training and Mobilization construction of four barracks, which will house more than 600 transient Soldiers.

In support of the modular force at Fort Riley,



Artist rendering provided

Throughout FY05, Military Construction provides sustainable engineering, construction and environmental management products and services to its customers.

The Command and General Staff College, funded incrementally, is 50 percent complete. The facility will be outfitted with state-of-the-art equipment.

the district renovated 17 barracks and three Tactical Equipment Maintenance Facilities throughout the year. Renovations will continue through 2006.

Awarded for construction at Fort Leonard Wood was the contract for the CBRN Responder Training Facility, a 42,000-square-foot complex to train responders for terrorist threats at home and abroad.

Fort Leavenworth experienced a face-lift this year with the completion of 84 new housing units, jogging trails and new roads and utilities. These projects were completed for \$19.7 million. Construction continues on the Command and General Staff College, which is now 50 percent complete. The college will be a state-of-the-art facility to train and educate intermediate level Army and international officers to operate in a full spectrum Army. The project, incrementally funded from FY04 through FY06, will cost a total of \$114 million.

Overall, Military Construction has seen a busy year, with \$290.1 million worth of projects—more than double the budget available in 2004. Things show no sign of slowing down, either.

“The district will have more than \$300 million added to the 2006 budget over last year,” said Bill Waugh, chief of Military Programs.

But this isn't cause for worry for Col. Michael Rossi, district engineer in Kansas City. He says he's confident the district can handle the workload.



Photo by Eric Cramer

Among accomplishments in Civil Works in 2005 was the completion and opening of the new Kit Bond Visitor's Center at Stockton Lake. The new visitor's center replaces the former facility, destroyed by a tornado in 2003.

Dedicated to providing quality, responsive service to the nation in peace and war, Civil Works has fulfilled its missions of flood control, navigation, recreation and infrastructure and environmental stewardship in FY05.

Civil Works projects in the Kansas City District experienced a good year in 2005, accomplishing 102 percent of the anticipated programs for the fiscal year. There were successes, completions and startups in projects as varied as flood protection along the Missouri River and dam safety at lake projects.

Successes among the Kansas City District's Civil Works projects include the physical completion of the L-385 portion of the Missouri River Levee System near Riverside, Mo., and the beginning of construction of the Tuttle Creek Dam Safety project near Manhattan, Kan.

"It's physically complete," said Robert Dimmitt, project manager for L-385. "If a flood started tomorrow we could close the levee and it would control the river. We're still working on some final items with the contractor."

The L-385 project consists of 5.7 miles of earthen levee along the left bank of the Missouri River at Riverside. The levee system averages about 20 feet in height, varying from 15 feet to 23 feet. Upon completion of final negotiations, L-385 is anticipated to cost about \$80 million.

Dimmitt said L-385 was part of the larger Missouri River Levee System authorized by the U.S. Congress in 1944. The district signed a local cooperation agreement with Riverside, Mo., in 1997.

The Corps broke ground on the project in April, 2002. The primary contractor on the project was Environmental Specialists, Inc., of Kansas City, Mo., and dedicated its physical completion in May.

The Tuttle Creek Dam Safety Assurance Program

project also showed progress in 2005. The year saw the letting of contracts on the project, which will stabilize Tuttle Creek Dam in the event of an earthquake.

Until the dam stabilization project's completion, a complex dam safety warning system will give the 13,000 residents living below Tuttle Creek Lake time to evacuate in the event of an earthquake. The warning system includes a network of sirens that emit both audible alarms and voice messages during an emergency.

"We estimate people living below the dam will have between two and six hours to evacuate in the event of an earthquake," said Bill Empson,



Photo by Eric Cramer

Students evacuate the Eisenhower Elementary School in Manhattan, Kan., as part of a test of the Tuttle Creek Dam Safety Warning system. The warning system is designed to protect 13,000 residents below the dam if an earthquake takes place before a dam stabilization program at the site is completed.

manager of the safety and stabilization portion of the project.

Once the dam stabilization project is complete, the sirens will be given to the city of Manhattan, where they will serve as both a dam safety and tornado warning system.

Figures from the Kansas City District also show it is meeting its goals.

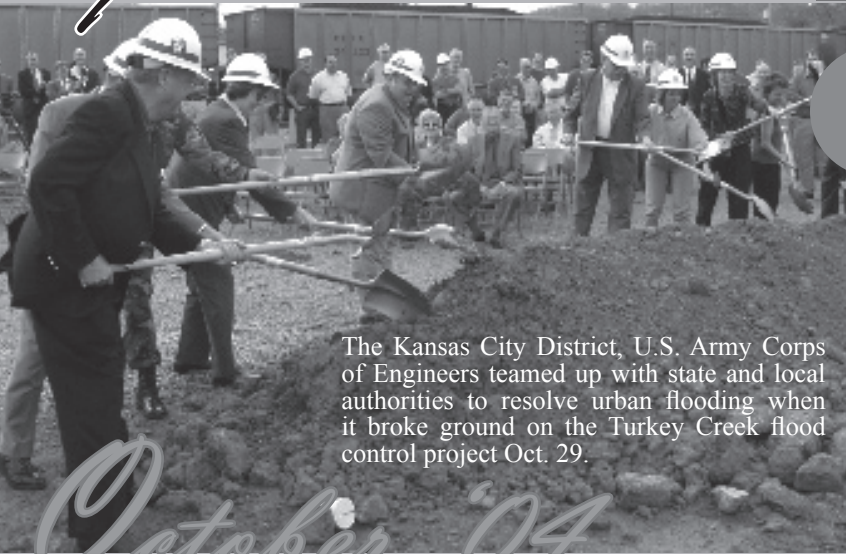
The Civil Works Operations and Maintenance program executed 102 percent of the program during fiscal year 2005; this included more than \$47 million in the fiscal year 2005 program and an additional \$360,000 in 2004 carryover dollars, said Sharon Fritz, chief of the Operations Division's Management Support Branch.

Fritz said included in the total execution in 2005 was

continued on page 15

Year in Review

Oct 2004 - Dec 2005



The Kansas City District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers teamed up with state and local authorities to resolve urban flooding when it broke ground on the Turkey Creek flood control project Oct. 29.

Photo by Eric Cramer

Coordinated by the Kansas City District, a Dam Safety Warning System exercise was held at Tuttle Creek Oct. 20 which involved 100 people from 20 different cities, county, state and federal agencies. The exercise tested six new warning system towers.

The Kansas City District and several other government agencies gathered on Oct. 27 to celebrate the opening of a new bridge on Prospect Avenue in Kansas City, Mo., designed and built by the Corps in partnership with Kansas City government and other agencies.

October '04

Col. Michael Rossi dedicated the Jim and Olivia Hare Wildlife Area near Nodaway, Mo., in a ceremony on Nov. 3 as part of the Missouri River Mitigation Project.



Photo by Eric Cramer

November '04

The tsunami, generated by the Indian Ocean Earthquake on Dec. 26, 2004 killed about 275,000 people, making it one of the deadliest disasters in modern history.

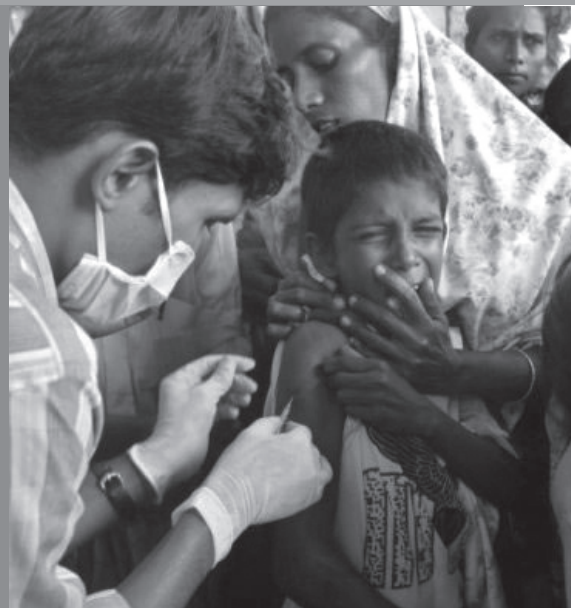


Photo provided

December '04

The District was awarded the “Brick by Brick” award Jan. 11 by the Kansas City Industrial Council for its efforts in constructing and managing projects throughout the Greater Kansas City area that provide flood protection for regional businesses and the area’s more than 1 million residents.

January '05

Millions of Iraqis cast ballots Jan. 30 in the nation’s first free elections in half a century



Photo by Kip Lynch

Eagle Days was celebrated at Milford Lake in Junction City, Kan., Jan. 15 and 16. The project office has been holding the event since 1990 with the Milford Nature Center and Milford State Park. New for 2005 was a life-size eagle nest children could crawl into with a replica egg, wing silhouettes they could wear and a special “Milford Lake” painted backdrop to give them a bird’s eye view from their nest.



Photo by Sgt. April L. Johnson 55th Signal Company, COMCAM, Kirkuk Airbase, Salah Alabama-Dein, Iraq

Civilian Drug Testing Program began in February in an effort to ensure a drug-free workplace.

February

Maj. Kim Walter shows a flood model of Brush Creek to sixth, seventh, and eighth grade children during the Middle School Design Build Competition March 1 at Union Station in Kansas City, Mo. More than 2,000 children attended the event which is in its fifth year of operation.

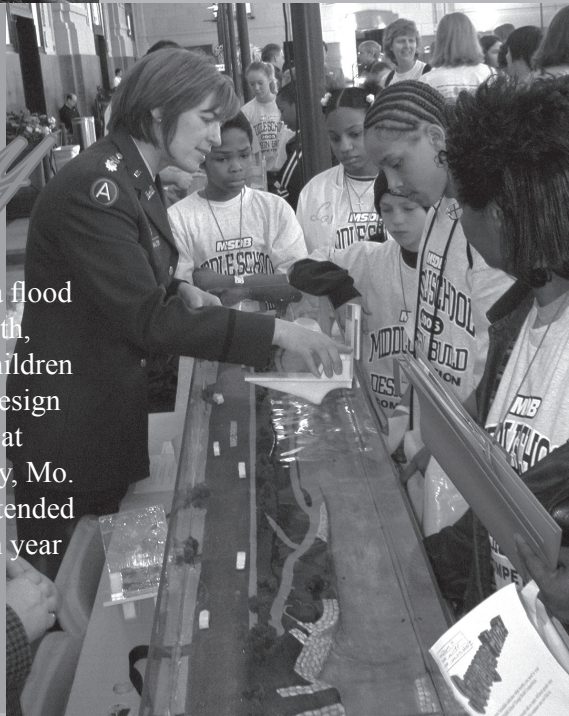


Photo by Walter Hermbaugh

March

A groundbreaking ceremony was held March 7 in honor of the \$12.6 million Professional Development Center and library being constructed at Whiteman Air Force Base in Knob Noster, Mo. The center and library are slated for completion by Sept. 6, 2006.



Photo by Joe Wilbur

The family of Sgt 1st Class Paul R. Smith who was killed April 4, 2003 accepted the highest military recognition, the first Medal of Honor for Operation Iraqi Freedom, on his behalf from President George W. Bush in the East Room of the White House on April 5.

Closing one chapter of his life and beginning the next, LT. Col. James Steinke said goodbye to the Kansas City District on April 22 after two years of serving as the deputy district engineer.

Amia Schreiner, a Corps executive board member for the 2005 Kansas City Corporate Challenge gets a push-start during the bike time trail event at the Kansas Speedway. Schreiner, competing in six events, won the Golden Studette Award.



Photo by Mike Watkins

April

In a ceremony held May 20, Sen. Christopher “Kit” Bond along with Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works John Paul Woodley Jr. (pictured), Col. Michael Rossi and other government officials dedicated the completion of levee L-385 in Riverside, Mo.



Photo by Diana McCoy

Corps employees from across the Kansas City District came together June 17 for the annual Corps picnic.

Assisting Community LINC, 25 district employees built a retaining wall June 25 as part of the annual Day of Caring. Community LINC’s mission is to develop self-sufficient families.

May

June

Maj. Kelly Butler is welcomed as the new deputy district engineer on July 15. Butler came to Kansas City from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii

July

The Project Institute awarded Project Management Professionals certification to 20 district employees.



Photo by Eric Cramer



Photo provided

The evacuation of Israelis from the Gaza Strip was complete on Aug. 22.

August

Hurricane Katrina made landfall in Louisiana on Aug. 29 as a Category 4 Storm, making it the most expensive natural disaster in U.S. history and causing a humanitarian crisis on a scale unseen in the U.S. since the Great Depression.

Trudy Shannon (second from left), joins fellow Afghanistan Engineering District members in a solemn 9-11 remembrance. Shannon, and her husband Derrick Shannon, are currently serving in AED. Both served last year in Iraq as part of the Gulf Region Division.

September

Sen. Christopher "Kit" Bond and Kansas City district engineer Col. Michael Rossi gathered with Stockton area officials Sept. 2 to cut the ribbon on the new visitor's center at Stockton Lake in Missouri.



Photo provided



Photo by Eric Cramer

The electorate of Iraq went to the polls on Oct. 15 to vote in a referendum on whether or not to ratify the proposed Iraqi constitution of 2005.

October

Rosa Parks, "mother of the modern-day Civil Rights Movement," passed away Oct. 24 from natural causes at her home in Detroit, Mich. Parks won such awards as the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal.

November

A managed deer hunt for the physically challenged was held at Smithville Lake in Missouri on Nov. 19-20. Participants saw a record year with 60 hunters killing 75 deer. Eric Will (left) has participated for 16 years and shot a 300-pound buck with the aid of Ted Nash.



Photo by Aaron Wulf



CENWK-PA photo

District leaders Kevin Bond, David Glandon, Des Goyal, Steve Iverson and Bill Zaner (left to right) meet Dec. 6 to judge the bumper sticker contest initiated by Col. Michael Rossi. The winner, whose entry will be picked from three final entries, will be rewarded \$500.

December

ENVIRONMENTAL

Striving to achieve environmental sustainability, Kansas City's Environmental branch has had a busy year in FY05.

Kansas City District environmental programs achieved many accomplishments in fiscal year 2005. They provided cleanup on formerly used defense sites and mitigated hazardous, toxic and radioactive waste in areas under its responsibility.

The district conducted \$212 million in total environmental projects this year with \$76.5 million going to the Formerly Used Sites Remedial Action Program.

An additional \$96 million addressed cleanup of federally mandated Superfund sites, with a target of \$70 million entering the fiscal year. The remainder of the

budget was split among Formerly Used Defense Sites, international and interagency support, environmental quality and Air Force Base Realignment and Closure.

Successes included work for Region II, Environmental Protection Agency which is responsible for facilities in New York and New Jersey, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and seven tribal nations, said Ed Bristow, section chief in the Environmental Engineering Branch.

Bristow said four Superfund remedial design projects stand out:

- Horseshoe Road - located in Sayreville, N.J. This former waste site/dump area is contaminated with multiple chemical wastes.
- Ludlow Sand and Gravel - located in Clayville, N.Y. This is an active landfill contributing to industrial waste contamination by polychlorinated biphenyl, or PCBs, various solvents and heavy metals.
- Cornell Dubilier Electronics - located in South Plainfield, N.J. This was a transformer oil-testing site that is now contaminated, primarily with PCBs.

- Zschiegner Refining - located in Howell, N.J. The Zschiegner facility was a precious metal recovery operation that resulted in discharges of multiple caustic chemicals to areas adjacent to the refining building, including a wetlands area.

The fiscal year 2005 construction completions reported by EPA Region II included four sites managed by the Corps: Montgomery Township/Rocky Hill, Glen Ridge/Montclair, Chemical Insecticide Corp., and Genzale Plating. The New York and Philadelphia Districts administered these remedial action projects with design and engineering support from Kansas City, as needed.

The Kansas City District FUDS Program showed growth as it was projected to receive \$13.7 million and received \$18.8 million, a 37 percent increase in budget.

District FUDS projects are numerous former military

Contractors working on the Montclair/Glen Ridge Superfund site remove radioactive soil from beneath city streets. The soil will be disposed of at a radioactive waste site in Utah.



Contractors load radioactive contaminated soils for transport and disposals in Utah, from a site near Montclair, N.J. The Montclair/Glen Ridge Superfund sites are among several sites in New York and New Jersey managed by the Kansas City District for Region II of the Environmental Protection Agency.



Photos provided

This basement contains radioactive-contaminated soil and is in the Montclair/Glen Ridge Superfund site. Contractors working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will remove the soil and dispose of it at a safe facility. As part of the remediation work, the basement, utilities and any contaminated items will be restored to habitable conditions.

Dedicated government employees...

SERVING

in Harm's Way. . .



Photo provided

Ray Martin, a project manager from the Fort Riley Resident Office, served during his second voluntary deployment to Iraq. Martin worked as a cost estimator and a project manager and has recently returned.

Iraq, Afghanistan, Katrina, Rita...the nation's headlines in 2005 told the story of unprecedented reconstruction and recovery both within the United States and abroad. By reading these stories many would perceive 2005 as an atypical year in terms of emergency operations. However, for those who volunteer to serve for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, it was business as usual.

In support of the global war on terror in places like Iraq and Afghanistan, and on the heels of hurricanes Francis, Jeanne, Ivan and Charley which slammed the nation's southeast in the fall of 2004 as well as Katrina, Wilma and Rita in 2005, more than 120 volunteers from the Kansas City District have raised their hands to serve in harm's way.

"These are the employees who embrace the 'expeditionary mindset' expressed by the Chief of Engineers," said Chief of Emergency Management Branch, Paul Flamm.

During natural disaster recovery, these Corps teams support the Federal Emergency Management Agency with



Photo provided

Lt. Col. Brad Eaton, right, meets with a colleague while serving with the U.S. Army in Iraq. Eaton works for the Kansas City District as a project manager in the Environmental Programs Branch.

have also included a myriad of new and renovated schools, hospitals, clinics, fire and police stations as well

Karim Williams, Kansas City District, supported the debris mission for Hurricane Katrina recovery operations in Hancock County, Mississippi.

Photo by Shannon Bauer

debris removal, emergency power, water and ice, as well as temporary roof construction and many other behind the scenes recovery functions.

In the fall of 2005, this mission not only involved the unwatering of the flooded New Orleans area and removal of sand and silt, but also included the collection and safe disposal of more than 27.4 million cubic yards of debris by the end of November (projected 56.6 million cubic yards total) and the installation of more than 180,000 temporary "blue roofs" (194,100 projected in total).

Corps and FEMA teams also helped deliver ice and water to impacted citizens and helped provide temporary generators and assist in the restoration of power and utility systems in storm damaged areas.

Overseas, Corps members serve side-by-side with their military counterparts in still hazardous conflict areas as part of a multi-national, multi-service reconstruction team bringing a better quality of life to new and emerging democracies.

In Iraq and Afghanistan, Corps personnel have helped restore and improve long-dilapidated infrastructure in electricity, water and sanitary sewer systems. Projects

as training facilities for local military to improve their readiness to secure their own borders.

To support those who packed their bags and joined

the fight on the frontlines, several hundred more Corps employees pulled extra duty back in the district to carry the workload for those serving downrange.

*The Heartland Engineer salutes those district personnel who raised their hands and answered the call during the last year:**

GWOT—Afghanistan and Iraq

Blair, Kevin	Martin, Raymond W.
Bleching, Erik	McCoy, Leslie D.
Brooks, David P.	McFarland, William
Bruns, Alan C.	Mitchell, Dan
Cheever, Rick	Parker-Anderson, Rona A.
Cox, Bradley A.	Peterson, Lisa Ann
Dow, Thomas A.	Petry, Jonathon C.
LTC USAR Eaton, Brad	Semotuk, Thomas D.
Falcon, Tereso R.	Shannon, Mari T.
Frazier, Mitch	Tyler, Darion Z.
Gilky, Florentine	Urbaniak, Thomas
Holtz, Jerry D.	Wertz, Kenneth R.
Hood, William E.	West, Shunte
Kern, Gina Marie	Williams, Charles E.
MAJ Little, Matthew R.	Wilson, Gregory G.
Loera, Stephanie L.	Wolterman, Michael J.
Logan, Brent J.	Woodward, Debra K.
Lynch, Kevin D.	Woody, Robert E.

Hurricane duty

Adams, Brenda	Finneran, Robert	Louis, Ed	Roberts, Jim	Watkins, Bunnie
Bahner, Bernard	Flamm, Paul	Lucas, Jo Ann	Salley, Billie	Wertz, Ken
Bauders, Vanessa	Gilkey, Florentine	Lynn, Eric	Schoen, Robert	Weter, Roger
Blair, Kevin	Goers, Don	Marx, Joshua	Sellmeyer, Charles	Wheeler, Cody
Boyd, III T G.	Hadel, Stephen	McCabe, Thomas	Shaw, Jimmy	Whetzel, Steve
Brink, Brad	Hall, Charles	Mellema, Doug	Sheffield, Mitzi	Whipple, Marge
Brown, James	Helms, Willem	Menhennet, Darrell	Skelton, John	Whitaker, Bobby
Bullington, John	Henderson, Larry	Mewmaw, Jared	Smith, Larry	White, Chris
Carte, David	Holtz, Jerry	Mitchell, Daniel	Smith, Travida	White, David
Cates, Gaylord	Hoover, David	Morrow, Butch	Stone, Beverly	Williams, Karim
Chamberlin, Craig	Huber, Greg	Mroz, Dan	Trier, Patrick	Willaims, Robert
Charles, Marqueta	Jewell, Robert	Mueller, Julie	Urbaniak, Tom	Wilson, Dan
Colbert, Charles	Jones, Alan	Mura, Ed	Vance, Jesse	Wilson, Greg
Cox, Brad	Jones, Janet	Murt, Vicki	Vandenberg, Matt	Wochner, Robin
Cramer, Eric	Keast, Mark	Nelson, Ralph	Vencill, Jack	Woodward, Debbie
Curry, Abe	Kellner, Justin	Nevins, Emma	Wagoner, Sam	Wright, Brian
Day, Adam	Kneuvean, Jud	Newman, Randy	Wansing, Dereck	
Duerksen, Lucius	L'Ecuyer, Jason	Pierce, Frank		
Dye, Robert	Locke, Glen	Pullen, Josette		
Evans, Dave	Lopez, Joe	Robards, Mary		

*This list was generated from deployment records from Oct 1, 2004 to present. Apologies for any errors or omissions - corrections will follow in future Heartland Engineer issues.

SAFETY & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Fiscal year 2005 was a challenging but successful year for the district's Safety and Occupational Health program said office chief, Joseph Graf.

"Any accident to our employees or stakeholders (contractor employees or members of the public), or accidents resulting in destruction of property is too many. Our office's efforts continue to stress preventive safety and health programs to eliminate accidents, or where there is an accident, manage its negative effect," Graf said.

The District recorded 37 total accidents in FY05, the second lowest total since 1975 when the district began recording such data, including only one lost-time contractor accident, the lowest recorded to date.

While the 11 public drowning

continued on page 15

SMALL BUSINESS

The Kansas City District Small Business Office set the bar high in FY2005. Of the \$611 million in district obligations, a record \$288

million were directed towards small business awards.

"In the nine years I have served as Deputy for Small Business, this year's total of \$288 million is the largest contracted by the district Small Business Program," said Arthur Saulsberry.

The \$288 million represented 47.3 percent of the district program which exceeded USACE goals of 41.3 percent. While awards to women-owned businesses fell short in FY05 (\$18 million, 2.6 percent shy of the USACE goal of 5.6 percent), awards in small disadvantaged businesses (\$107 million, 2.2 percent above USACE goal of 15.8 percent) and HubZones (\$53 million, 1 percent over 8 percent USACE goal) helped make up the difference and achieve another successful year.

"By ensuring that small and disadvantaged businesses, including women-owned businesses and other qualifying businesses, are included in the district's program, we get a better product and help grow the technical capacity and capability of the private sector," said Saulsberry.

REAL ESTATE

The Kansas City District Real Estate mission experienced across-the-board successes in FY05 as it met or surpassed its execution goals in managing lease programs to support military recruiting, local reserve and civil works operations.

As part of its obligation to manage leases and locate housing for recruiters in support of all military services, the district processed more than \$5.4 million in contracts plus an additional \$807,000 to support local Army Reserve operations. In the civil works mission area, district real estate specialists achieved 100 percent execution in mitigation projects along the Missouri River (\$430,000) as well as 106 percent execution in agricultural leasing arrangements around district lake projects.

The total Real Estate program level in FY05 of \$7.9 million was larger than the five-year average of \$7.4 million.

"It's been a busy year," said Chief of Real Estate, Greg Wilson. He anticipates FY06 will be even more challenging as state mitigation is expected to exceed \$5 million in acquisitions alone.

continued on page 15

COMMUNITY Involvement

CORPS'
TEAM
EFFORT

It has been said Christmas is the season for giving, but Corps employees in the Kansas City District didn't wait for this once-a-year opportunity to show their generosity. They gave of their time and money when the need presented itself, which it did, throughout the whole year.

Day of Caring

Community LINC was the welcome recipient of the efforts of 25 district employees in 2005. Leading the effort on June 25 along with Maj. Kim Walter was Bob VanHorn, project manager in military construction.

"We built a retaining wall to provide a level building surface for a playground," said VanHorn, who solidly endorses Community LINC.

To name a few things, the organization provides transitional housing to more than 50 Kansas City families each year who must commit to making life changes which will lead them to self-sufficiency, and they also provide career development which prepares clients for the job market.

"LINC is a good organization," said VanHorn. "The district has done extremely ambitious projects each year, but paired with our determination, finishing the projects on

annual run held to commemorate the events of Sept. 11, 2001. The Kansas City District's team, Hard Corps, had 11 participants who ran a total of 144.19 miles, taking first place out of six teams and blowing the second place competitor out of the water by more than 45 miles, said Tony Drew, director of the run.

The Patriot's Run, getting its start in 2003, is a 9-hour and eleven-minute run/walk which aims to raise money for one charity each year. This year the \$2,500 raised went to the Surviving Spouse and Family Endowment Fund, which serves as a financial aid to families of emergency personnel who have perished while protecting the Kansas City community and its citizens.

Combined Federal Campaign

The Kansas City District had a record year when it came to raising money through the world's largest and most successful annual workplace giving campaign, raising more money than any other year.

Arthur Saulsberry gets locked up during the popular CFC fundraising event of Corporate Pokey. A total of \$805 was raised that day.



Photo by Jennie Wilson

Donald Curtis, retired Kansas City District engineer (left), and Ben Davis, project manager, participate in the Patriots' Run, an annual event held to commemorate the tragic events of September 11, 2001. Hard Corps, the district's team, comprised of 11 members, ran a total of 144.19 miles.

time has never been a problem."

Patriot's Run

This was the Corps' first year of involvement with the



Photo by Jennie Wilson

Bill Zaner, the friendly CFC coordinator, said record-breakers were made in four different categories which helped to make the 2005 campaign a success

"We surpassed our goal," Zaner said. "I sent out an email to announce the end of the fundraising, and a few more pledges came in which brought our total to \$88,318.20."

Zaner said the success of the campaign was due in a large part to CFC canvassers and committee members. Without them, he said, the district's involvement wouldn't have been the victory it turned out to be. Canvassers and committee members raised more than \$11,000 from the 2004 campaign. This year also saw the first time the district has exceeded its goal.

"We had 30 eagle donors this year," Zaner said, "which is

CIVIL WORKS

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\$500,000 for recreation and modernization at Rathbun Lake and completion of the \$1.6 million Stockton Administration Building.

The figures also include \$5 million in critical dam safety items including completion of the Wilson Lake stilling basin wall repair and the Milford Lake seepage blanket repair. In addition, numerous periodic inspections, bridge inspections and relief well rejuvenations were completed in fiscal year 2005. On the Missouri River, the district spent \$1.5 million on dike repair and structural improvements along the river, Fritz said. She said the district also received \$1 million for critical infrastructure security at the end of fiscal year 2005, and those items will be completed in 2006.

COMMUNITY

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the largest number of eagle donors this campaign has seen in recent years.”

Eagle donors are those who contribute \$1,000 or more. Pillar and Commander donors are those who contribute \$350 to \$999.

“Another record-breaker in 2005 was the number of dollars raised only from pledges,” Zander said. “We had a record number of pledges raising a total of \$83,565.26.”

Another \$4,752.49 was raised through fundraising events led by committee members.

“Even though our canvassers and committee members did an excellent job, we really wouldn’t have gotten anywhere without the generosity of our district employees,” Zander said, adding a thank-you to all who filled out a pledge card or donated through fundraisers.

Kansas City

Corporate Challenge 2005

Company coordinators Mike Watkins, wildlife biologist, and Carol Adams, program analyst, have seen the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers team improve all the way from 15th to first place in its division since 1990. The team placed fourth with 489 points in 2005 with 161 employees participating out of the more than 20,000 people in the Kansas City metropolitan area who competed in this mini-olympic-style event.

“Competing in Corporate Challenge improves the health and wellness of Corps employees, as well as develops camaraderie between people who work in different divisions of the Corps,” Watkins said. “Because of my participation, I have gotten to know people in engineering and hazardous waste and toxic waste (HTRW)

that I otherwise would have never met. [Corporate Challenge] turned out not only to be a good fitness activity, it also makes the organization more effective and efficient because of the networking employees experience.”

Watkins said KCCC has made the Corps more visible within the Kansas City community. People recognize our participants’ spirit and sportsmanship.

“When we go somewhere, people know who the Corps is not only because of the excellent engineering and environmental projects we do but also the quality people we have participating,” he said.

When asked about the highlights of KCCC 2005, Watkins said they were similar to those of any year. Participants had a lot of fun, and every year several individuals step forward with great performances.

“Our Golden Stud Award went to Ben Davis who scored the most individual and meet points of any male competitor with the Corps in 2005,” Watkins said. “Amia Schreiner won the Golden Studette Award for her participation and points scored with eight events. Both individuals are also on the KCCC Executive Board.”

“I’m proud of the generosity of our employees,” said Col. Michael Rossi, district engineer in Kansas City. “I must be an eternal optimist because I never doubted we wouldn’t reach our goal,” he said of the money raised for CFC.

ENVIRONMENTAL

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installations and training areas with highlights including:

- Completion of the installation of public water supply connections for 75 residences near contaminated groundwater at Forbes Air Force Base Atlas S-7 missile site, Wamego, Kan.

- Completion of a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of St. Louis for the MMRP project at Forest Park, Missouri.

- Reached “phase complete” for 19 projects.

- Reached Remedy in place/response complete for five projects.

- Completion of PCO actions for eight projects.

- Award of two performance-based contracts for \$579,000.

The FUDS program managed 65 active projects in fiscal year 2005 including 20 hazardous waste projects, six containerized HTRW projects, two Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) projects, six chemical warfare projects and 14 Potential Responsible Party projects. The projects cover all the phases from initial

negotiations to closeout.

The district expended 17 percent of its FUDS funding for projects in Missouri, 28 percent in Kansas, and 50 percent in Nebraska. An additional 8 percent went to PRP projects. Four percent of the budget went to munitions or chemical weapons projects.

REAL ESTATE

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With ongoing deployment requirements to support recovery efforts at home and reconstruction efforts abroad, Wilson credits his staff to maintain the district’s high execution levels in real estate support.

“We’re fortunate to have a strong staff of proactive and professional team members here in Kansas City,” he said.

SAFETY

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accidents at the eighteen lake projects was up from FY04 and FY03, it was the ninth lowest level recorded by frequency rate in the district in 30 years (considering visitor hours at lake projects have increased more than 600 percent since 1975).

“We have a very proactive water safety committee. Their water safety programs educate the public on how to enjoy the recreational opportunities at our lake projects safely. I think the focus on safety at our projects helps minimize these tragedies as much as possible,” said Graf.

The District water safety program includes billboards, public service announcements as well as interactive programs at lake projects and local schools involving an “army” of natural resource specialists and rangers.

While FY05 noted several successes, the district did experience a contractor fatality at one of its military construction projects in late November 2005.

“As a District Commander I take great pride in the safe operation of our construction projects -- any loss of life at our projects, be it contractor or other, is a loss to our Corps family as well,” said Col. Michael Rossi, district engineer, following the accident.

In response, the District Safety Office initiated an immediate investigation on the cause of the tragic event.

“While that cannot change the tragic event which happened, it will help assure similar events in the future are prevented,” said Rossi.

Happy Holidays



Photo by Jennie Wilson

HAILS

Amato, Susan R.
Anderson, William A.
Best, David M.
Boatwright, Travis S.
Bond, Bradley J.
Bowman, Dawn P.
Brooks, Danielle S.
Callahan, Robert M.
Carleton, Brian R.
Cherry, Nora
Clark, Steven A.
Collins-Allen, Heather L.B.
Cook, Melissa J.
Corkill, Melissa R.
Craig, Elizabeth A.
Crouch, Mark E.
Dempsey, Janna C.
Dyer, Braven L.
Farney, Christopher M.
Fischer, Steven A.
Flynn, Valerie S.
Garretson, Shannon L.
Gentry, Jodi Lorraine
Gorney, Dawn S.
Grauer, Christopher J.
Henggeler, Geoffrey J.
Hill, Terry L.
Hillman, Thomas L.
Holt, Devin T.
Hood, Frances C.
Hook, Adam J.
Huffman, Tammy M.
Jeffords, William L.

Jones, Alan M.
Junko, Carol A.
Kasten, Shawn R.
Kilgore, Jesse T.
Logan, Joshua M.
Marshall, Joy Tavika
McDaniel, Tamara Y.
McDell, Doretha
Meyring, Brett N.
Miller, Karen D.
Mitchell, Lucas R.
Moody, Monica
Murrugarra, Valerie D.
Noland, Dusty R.
Pemberton, Gary W.
Plachy, Douglas H.
Porter, Debra Jon
Powell, Jacob A.
Rice, Steven R.
Robertson, Debra
Rogers, Monica L.
Rosa, Jerry L.
Rupke, Arlo G.
Schalk, Slade C.
Sienkiewicz, Matthew P.
Smith, Travida D.
Snider, Caleb L.
Stimmel, Richard A.
Stover, Howard J.
Thompson, Brian R.
Torgerson, Helmer
Trujillo, James E.
Ujcz, Sheronda
Vaughn, Harold W.

Wiles, Jessica I.
Williams, Ryan A.
Williamson, Diane M.
Wilson, Matthew J.

FAREWELLS

Adam, Ralph G.
Arrington, Tara
Beckman, Jared L.
Bessinger, Shaun L.
Blechinger, Erik T.
Brooks, Danielle S.
Brown, Rhonda
Brownback, Lindy R.
Buckland, Nicholas J.
Bunch, James L.
Callahan, Robert M.
Carrillo, Fernando
Casteel, Heather M.
Crawford, David V.
Curts, Joshua N.
Denker, Benjamin P.
Ehrke, Jared S.
Everett, Marquonette L.
Flynn, Valerie S.
Frazier, Mitchell D.
Gorton, Mary J.
Green, Jarred D.
Gross, Jacob J.
Hall, Jerrod R.
Harris, Amanda L.

Jackson, Phyllis Rose
Jeffres, Alice M.
Jensen, Gayla R.
Johnson, John K.
Jones, Jason L.
Kiekel, Devin J.
Kilgore, Jesse T.
King, Nancy L.
Kosel, Anne L.
Kraft, Mark E.
Kronhofman, Dustin B.
Kruger, Owen R.
Libby, Molly J.
Lloyd, Miranda S.
McClain, Carol A.
Ming, Amanda C.
Mitchell, Dustin L.
Montesano, Tonya M.
Oconnell, Patricia A.
Ostmeyer, Adam B.
Owen, Jacob W.
Paulson, Tina M.
Perkin, Danielle A.
Peterson, Stephen K.
Pilger, Tyler J.
Reasons, Derek S.
Riley, Michele A.
Rogers, Monica L.
Rope, Clifton J.
Ross, Gale A.
Saifan, Elaf I.
Schrik, Marianne
Sickler, Christopher P.
Skucius, Scott R.

Smith, Sterling L.
Stauch, Laura M.
Stopper, Justin W.
Terry, Christopher L.
Thurston, Thad L.
Trujillo, James E.
Walker, Samantha N.
Wallace, Jared M.
Wellons, Pamela S.
White, Ryan C.
Wittlerstichweh, Pamela L.
Yost, Michael

RETIREMENTS

Akers, Mary J.
Anderson, Jo Ann
Avery, Robert O.
Barnes, William M.
Bays, Jerald D.
Bell, Everett L.
Bolte, Danny W.
Brelsford, John E.
Byerly JR, Carl W.
Casey, Raymond J.
Chastainbrand, Maria E.
Felkner, Sandra L.
Fernandez, Noel T.
Freeman, Donald E.
Hallack, Ronald W.
Hayes, Charlene H.
Heyl, Ardell

Jenkins, Janice K.
Johnson, Stephen V.
Kuntz, Gary L.
Lunsford, Robert P.
McArthur, Vickie K.
McCollum, Richard W.
Norton, Essie J.
Pollert, Ronald P.
Potter, Gerald D.
Reed, Robert E.
Schick, Janet K.
Slater, Donald E.
Stevens, Gordon A.
Troia, Michael J.
Vogt, Lawrence R.
Volkman, Barry V.
Wyatt, Douglas W.

IN MEMORIUM

Cummins, Ronald C.
Van Bleisem, Patricia A.